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MIDDLE-CLASS FURNITURE IN THE UNITED STATES—II.

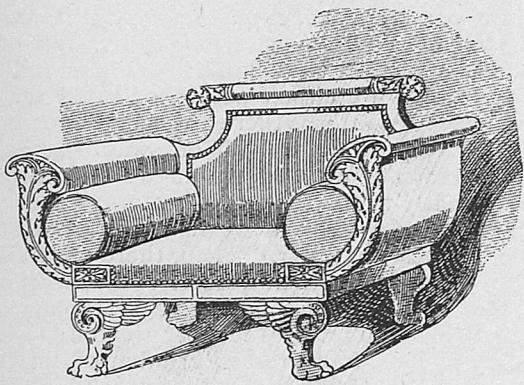


FIG. 1. EMPIRE DIVAN.

THE predilection for the Empire style which obtains in America is surprising. To show how fully the Americans accept the Napoleonic 'legend'—as regards furnishing—I append (Fig. 1) a lounge which I

saw in The Geo. C. Flint Co.'s showrooms, New York. It is doubtful whether our English revival of the Empire will get so far as this pattern, but it may be claimed that the seat is 'to style' and very cosy. Fig. 2 illustrates the application of the style to some stuff-over goods, designed by Mr. Cameron, of the above firm. Dressed up in a rich covering this set was noble-looking, and certainly provided the acme of comfort. Somewhat on Empire lines is the dining table, Fig. 4. It represents the usual American dining table, where elaborate, vulgar decoration is attempted, and it is inserted here as a thing to be avoided rather than to be copied. Fig. 3 is a chair on Renaissance lines.

"Just a few articles from the bedroom of Mrs. Brother Jonathan, and this review must close. The bedroom set

or toilet-case, and these she takes with her on her frequent journeys. Fig. 8 is a very pretty and convenient lady's dressing table which is worthy of notice from our novelty-seeking cabinet-makers. It would, I think, soon secure popularity on this side. This sort of thing is called a 'dresser,' the size of top being about 20x40 inches; and the gentleman's contrivance is dubbed 'chiffonier.' Fig. 9 is a fair type of the male article, and a very handy piece of furniture it is. The height is almost seventy inches, and the width thirty-eight inches, and it is safe to say that no American 'gentleman' could dress without his 'chiffonier.' He always stands to perform his toilet, and likes to have his collars, brushes and appliances within easy reach. There is something in the idea of dividing the dressing-table into sexes which should set our enterprising bedroom suite makers thinking."

HOLIDAY KNICK-KNACKS.

BY MRS. OLIVER BELL BUNCE.



A FEW weeks will come Christmas, that great day of the year, so that the shops already, for this event, present a goodly array of notable objects, which for artistic treatment is unsurpassed. Novelties in all directions this season are greater than ever before, and the pretty knick-knacks of to-day for the ambitious shopper are many of every variety in pattern, of designs that are unrivalled, and a selection that will meet a purse however slender.

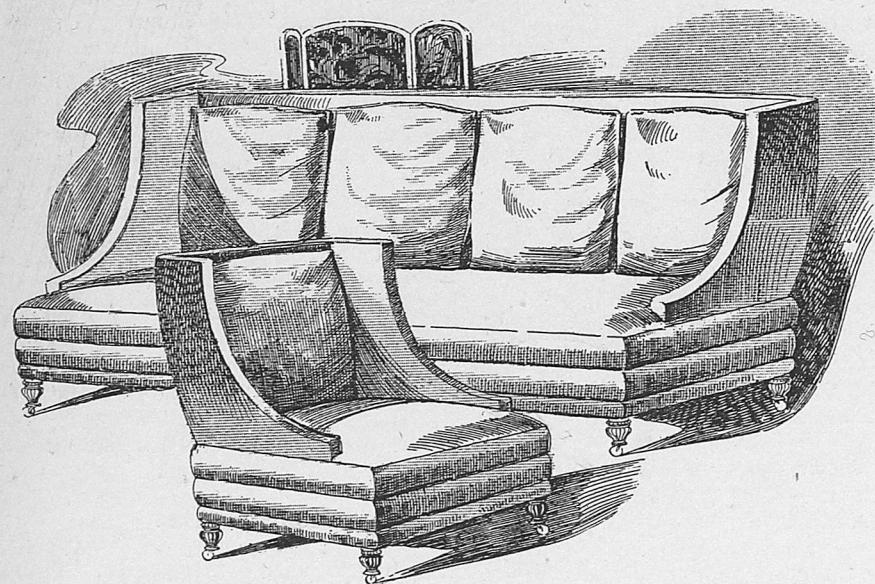


FIG. 2. OVERSTUFFED SUITE IN THE EMPIRE STYLE. BY THE GEO. C. FLINT CO.

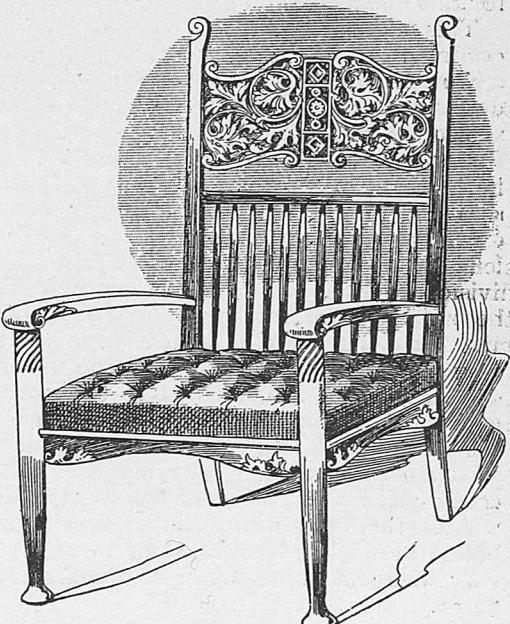


FIG. 3. ROMANESQUE CHAIR.

there differs from ours in that the lady always has a dressing table of her own. The ordinary sort are shown in Figs. 6 and 7. They give plenty of glass and are very simple and useful. The American lady does not care for 'nests of jewel drawers' on her table, but prefers the separate casket,

First for the new attempts in special novelties come those devices in enamel on sterling silver. These grand affairs, which are not only in gilt but in telling complementary colors—all these objects are heavily embossed, and naturally expensive in price. They include all sorts of plans for

feminine use and feminine wear. A fine large powder-puff, with a rich enamel handle, sells for the sum of \$30. Then, there is a salve, or cold cream case, on whose top an ideal head is cleverly represented; also, a match safe treated in the same elaborate style. The lorgnettes and eye-glasses of this beautiful decoration are splendors in themselves.

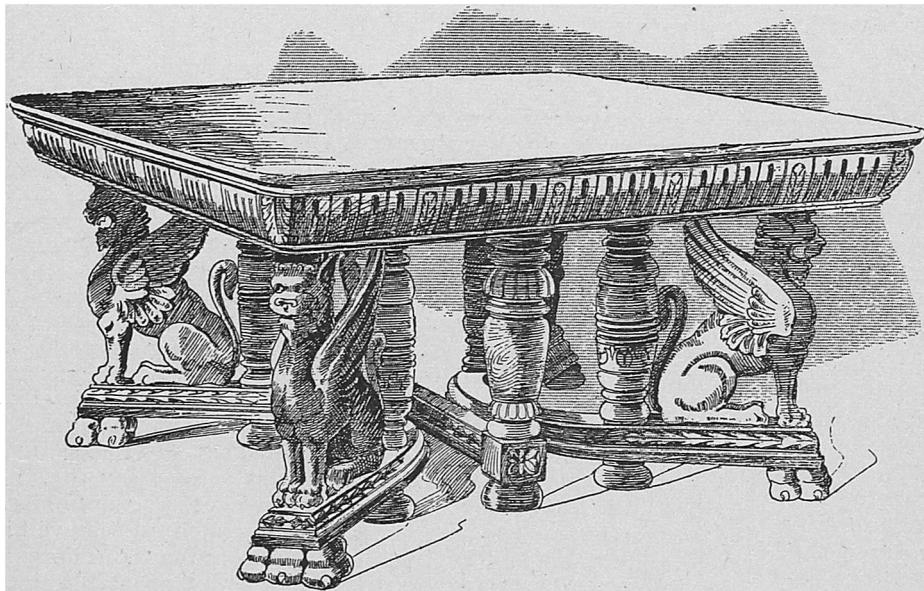


FIG. 4. A RENAISSANCE DINING TABLE.

They are finished in dark tones, with the finest of long chains, the most delicate of strings. Next comes the gilt comb, a superb addition for evening wear, rather narrow in design, whose centrepiece is a large oblong carbuncle. But the most conspicuous novelty is the heavy coiled bracelet—that old-fashioned band of gold which was worn so many years ago. Of these there are two, or even three designs. Some are gorgeously embossed with links, some very plain, but all very choice, and range in price from \$25 to \$30 each. And for all these delectable objects, of course, an ample price will have to be paid.

In this very same category of Christmas gifts the new prayer-book is an unusual scheme. It is of fair size, but with a cover of real onyx. And for this fine ornamentation in the centre is the picture of some sweet saint kneeling in prayer. This recumbent figure is enameled in rose colors, and makes for this unexceptional gift a brilliant showing.

This year we are offered for special wedding gifts, which occur during the holiday months, the Wedding Gown Book, a choice affair, very bridal in aspect, being bound in two new departures, one in watered silk, one in white vellum, with a slight decoration in gilt. The pages of each of these beautiful tributes are charmingly illustrated in flower schemes, in which are verses for every page, best suited to the occasion. On each leaf of the larger one there are special divisions for a bit of the wedding gown; a page dedicated to the sample of the bridesmaids' costumes, with that of a maid of honor, while in the centre of this novel arrangement is a place for the photographs of bride and groom. Further along there is also a page for the pictures of the bridesmaids, the best man and the ushers, while some two or three leaves are devoted to the names of the wedding guests. If bound in kid this novel idea brings \$15, but there are others of a less elaborate sort which sell well for \$10, all charming in their way, all covers having the tone of cream-white so suitable for this pretty gift.

Also, there is a new wedding service book, a natty affair, bound in delicate browns, something like an elephant skin—very inexpensive, as it can be procured for the small sum of \$2.50.

Of leather articles for this coming holiday time the tablet can be said to take the prize. It is simply a well-constructed writing pad decorated in true artistic style in burnt etching, and within it every accessory for a lady's use—a calendar, which can be removed at will, a fine large inkstand—all the paraphernalia for a complete correspondence. It has a cover which is fastened by nickel-plated buttons—a very fine affair. Then there are other novelties in this same leather, trifles

which are suitable for presents, from \$2.00 to \$5.00, and include medicine-boxes, card-cases, mouchoirs, book and magazine covers. All these varieties are ornamented with a design in burnt etching—a beautiful gift at this annual presentation time.

But there is another set of writing materials for the lady's desk or boudoir-stand which is brand new this season. It is a *chic* affair in cut glass edged with gilt. This unique present comes in a white plush box, and within it is every conceivable article for the elegant woman who values above all things her well-selected stationery. But still there are others of the same plan in kid, the tone of violet being the selected one; also in china they come, with a Bohemian glass in gilt effects as a fine decoration. Every one of these is splendidly and tastefully boxed for Christmas offering.

For the young girl brooches seem to be more popular than ever. Last year it was the twisted knot, this season it is a variety of shapes. These bits of jewelry are generally ornamented by either pearls or small diamonds. Of patterns there are many: among the favorites is a wreath of swallows; an apple blossom with leaves, in which pearls add greatly to the centre; a butterfly brooch of different shades of green enamel, and at the low price of \$4.75. Then, there are full-blown pansies in their natural colors, with a centre of pearl device; a scheme of Mercury's

wings, in which small brilliants are gracefully treated; rich pearl effects, in stars circlets, half crescents; a bar of small stones, in which the pattern of star and circlet is combined; fleur-de-lis in pearls, a notable ornament for neck gear. All these range in prices from \$5 to \$12 a pin, and are well worth it.

For men and lads the new scarf and stick pin is really a beauty. These bright bits of neck decoration come at excellent prices. A fly of pearls comes for \$2.50; an

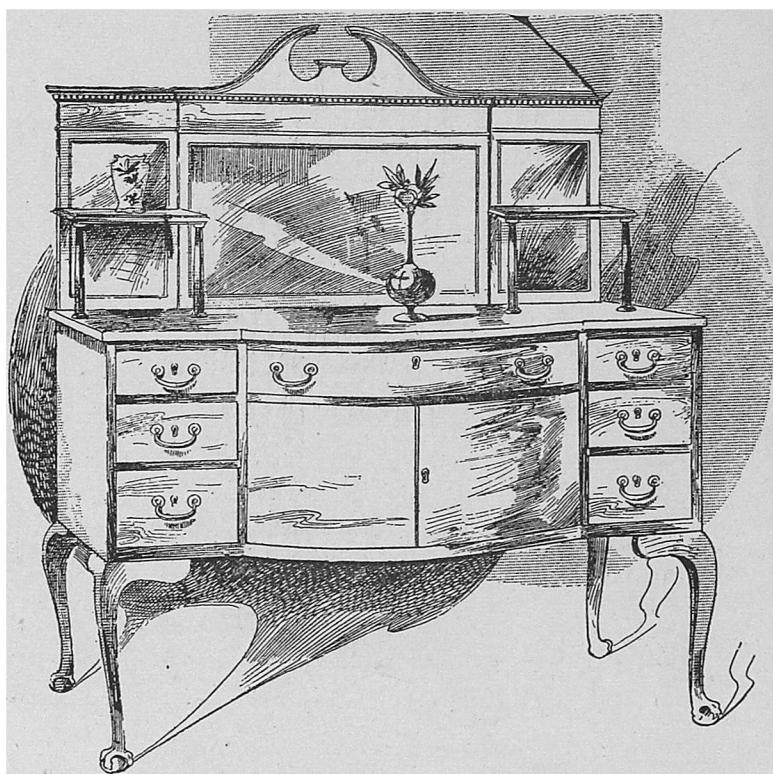


FIG. 5. SIDEBOARD ON COLONIAL LINES.

enamelled lily-of-the-valley brings, with pearls, \$3.50. Then, there are horse-shoes, gold crabs, stars and crescents, and all sorts of devices, but every one has, in some way, the beautiful ornamentation of either pearls or small brilliants, and a fine selection can be made at any price.

Lamps, this year, will be one of the special novelties for Christmas giving. This season the choice ones are in bronze, with a splendid Japanese design on every one, of different sizes,

and range in price from \$10 to \$20. But it is the shade alone which gives to these excellent devices the bit of color. They are of panel shape, framed in a showy beading of gilt. The glass—for it is really this—is in different complementary tones, in which the light comes in rare refulgence; but the newest novelty in these glass effects is the shell pattern. They are made of large oval shells, which graduate from pale pink to dark red, and owe their origin to the State of California.

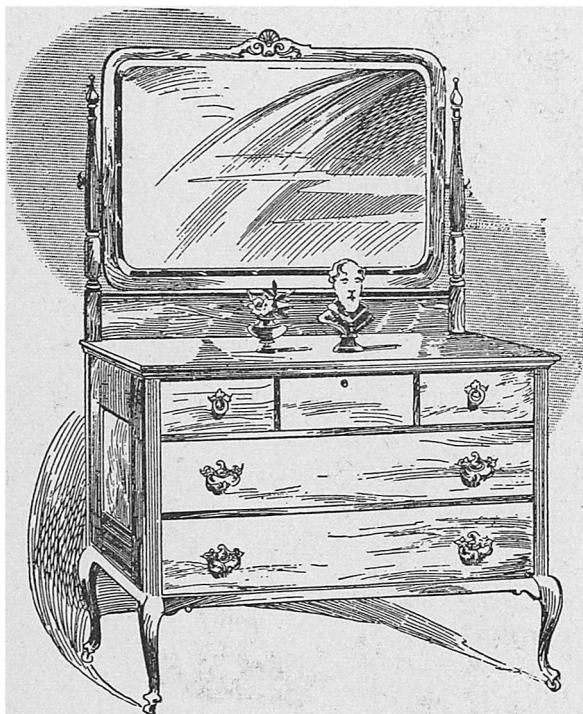


FIG. 6. DRESSING TABLE.

These oval affairs range from \$20 to \$40, and when lit assume a mellow light, although not so brilliant as the usual ordinary covering for lamps.

Delft ware seems, in every sort of article for household use, to reign supreme. All this pottery is ornamented by picturesque Holland subjects, and many of the shades, although an imitation, correspond wonderfully with the

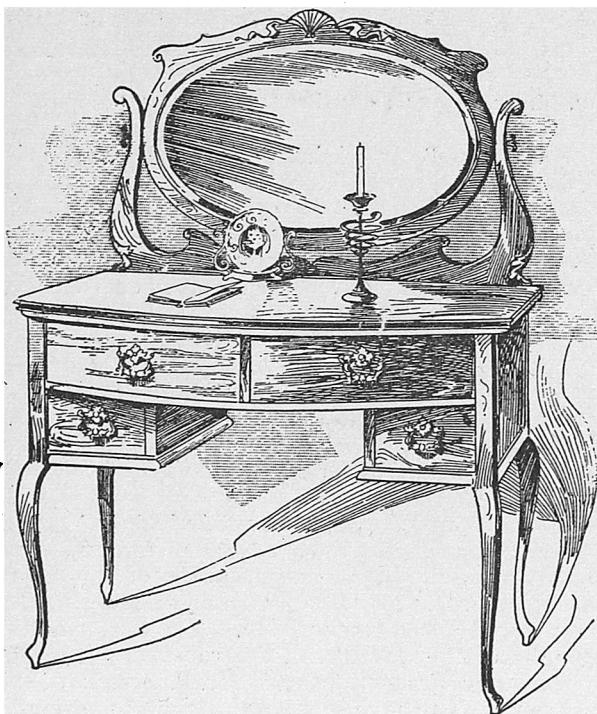


FIG. 7. DRESSING TABLE.

bodies of these decorative bits. The new yellow shade, with its elaborate device in gilt, seems to claim some attention. This pretty object is worth its price, \$13, and yet there is another little beauty for the dinner-table or evening collation. It is a composition stand in which there are three lamps,

grouped in good form together. They have tiny shades of blue clear glass, artistically treated, and can be purchased for from \$10 to \$12.

Of tea-tables, for the four o'clock teas—they are endless. Some have two tiers, some three, some side shelves, but all are decorated in silver and gilt, and, besides, the popular miniature is sure to find a place somewhere on these beautiful woods. One more elaborate than the rest has for its top

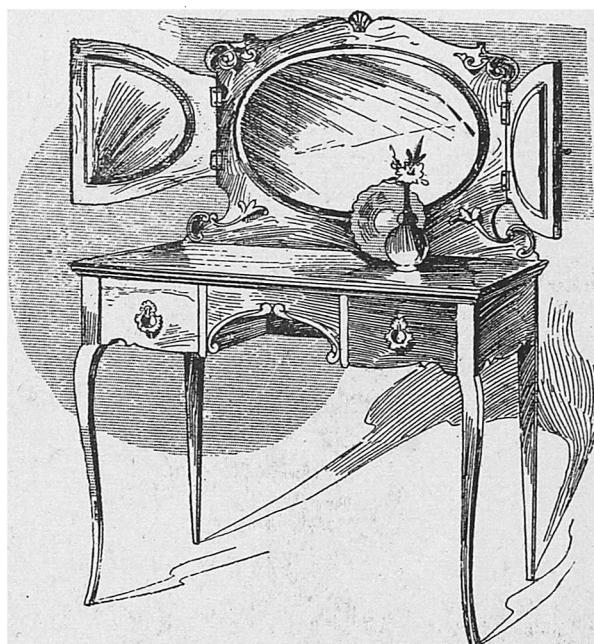


FIG. 8. LADY'S DRESSER.

a series of oval Dresden plaques. For the centrepiece is a charming pastoral scene of the same china, although much larger, in fact, than the others. But this is only a simple bit of brilliant coloring for the well-furnished drawing-room.

Knick-knacks there are in every shop, charms of every device, and presents for a small amount of money, which

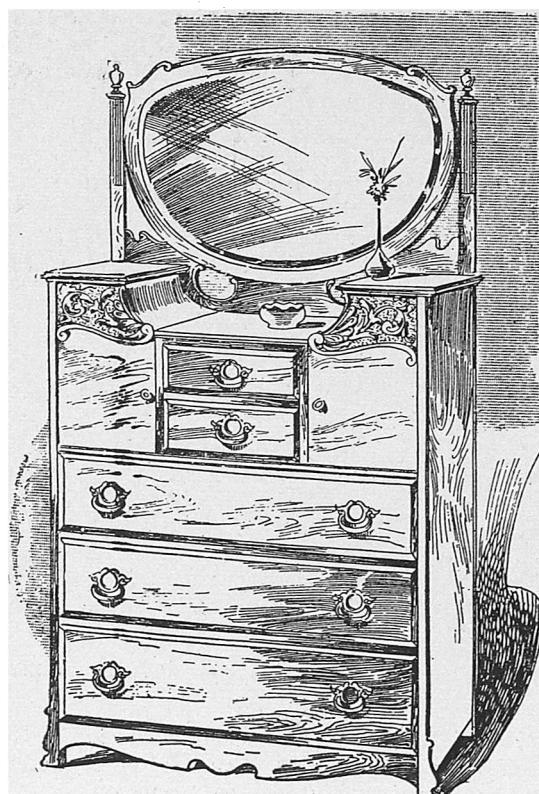


FIG. 9. GENTLEMAN'S CHIFFONIER.

are truly acceptable. One of the fresh innovations is the new perfumery pocket, a gilt affair in form of a reticule or side decoration, in which there are four cut glass bottles. This enamelled article has a pretty gilt chain for its design, and can be used for toilet or dress occasions.